SHADOW RAIDERS I

Episode 10
'Against All Odds'

ENGLISH DIALOGUE SCRIPT

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE_

A BLADE WING streaks into view at top speed, it is escorted by six other ice ships.

PYRUS (VO)
This is Pyrus to all escorts...stay in formation. I'm not expecting trouble, but..

BEAST DRONE FIRE sizzles past. Three escort ships are shot out of the sky.

PYRUS (VO cont'd)
Beast Drones! Break Up!

ZERA (VO)
Pyrus! What's happening?

PYRUS (VO)
What does it look like? We're under attack!

A dogfight ensues, during which the remaining escorts are destroyed. A beat and two BD ships zip in, firing.

PYRUS (VO cont'd)
Look Out! There's one on your tail!

ZERA (VO)
There's almost two!!

Their beams HIT the remaining Blade Wing and explosions ring across the small ship's hull.

INT. BLADE WING - COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

The Blade Wing ROCKS as it's hit again. PYRUS is pilot, frantically working the controls. ZERA sits next to him. (NOTE: They should be wearing lap-belts - 'mag-locks')

ZERA
(1) Pyrus, can't you get us out of here?

PYRUS
(2) What do you think I'm trying to do?

ZERA

(3) I don’t know - get us blasted to bits? A baby could pilot this craft better than you.

EXT. BLADE WING - CONTINUOUS

The Blade Wing zips in and around the attacking Beast Drone ships. As it zooms past, the Wing fires, strafing one BD ship. The ship IMPLODES and the Wing zooms up and around, imploding a second BD ship...

PYRUS (OS)
(4) Let’s see a baby do that!

INT. BLADE WING - COCKPIT

Pyrus looks pleased with himself. Zera couldn’t care less.

ZERA
(sarcastic)
(5) I am so impressed.

PYRUS
(6) Look, I’m only here because I got 'volunteered' to take you home. I don’t have time to play your little Princess games, O.K?

Zera crosses her arms in disgust and turns a snooty look.

ZERA
(7) Hey! I’m going to learn to be a warrior. You’ll see.

PYRUS
(8) Yeah, right. Zera, warrior-princess. That’ll be the day.

EXT. BLADE WING - COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

It streaks off at top speed.

PYRUS (cont’d)
(9) Coordinates for Planet Ice are locked in.

Suddenly, a new BD ship arcs in behind it, firing.

INT. BLADE WING - COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

The Blade Wing ROCKS. Sparks shoot out. They turn, panicky

PYRUS (OS)
(10) Hang on.

INT./EXT. BLADE WING - CONTINUOUS

Zera is worried. The Blade Wing weaves through space trying desperately to avoid BD fire. The shuttle is hit again - HARD. A control board explosion blasts Pyrus out of his seat and painfully into the side of the craft.

PYRUS (cont'd)
(11)
(painful groan)

ZERA
(12) Pyrus!

Zera, frightened, scrambles over to the still-smoking controls. She turns to the downed Pyrus.

ZERA
(13) I think I can fly this.

PYRUS
(14) Then g-get us out of here.

She glances down at the weapons controls, reaching for them.

ZERA
(15) <u>After</u> I get rid of our friend.

ZERA'S POV - THE TARGETING SIGHT (HEADS UP DISPLAY)

The sight can't get a direct bead on the incoming BD ship.

PYRUS
(16) Forget that. Just GO!

ZERA
(17) Chill out. I can do this.

Zera aims again...targets, then HITS the firing controls.

EXT. BLADE WING

The BD fires at the Blade Wing even as it's hit and implodes.

ZERA (OS)
(18) Told you so!

But the Blade Wing is hit as well and spins out of control.

EXT. REMORA

The Blade Wing spirals toward the planet.

INT. BLADE WING

Pyrus pulls himself to the seat, his controls are toasted. Zera struggles at her controls, as Pyrus grabs for them. They fight back and forth.

ZERA
(19) Let go, lavahead. I don't need you.

EXT. SURFACE OF REMORA - DAY

The Blade Wing spirals down...PUSH to the surface as the ship PLOWS into the dead world. digging up a long GROOVE in the surface, dirt and dust spraying out.

WIDE - it's careening toward a HUGE CHASM, plowing up the ground as it heads for certain destruction.

INT. BLADE WING

Zera and Pyrus are holding on for dear life.

EXT. BLADE WING - DAY

It skids toward the chasm edge

ZERA (VO)
Where's the brakes?

... closer... closer... and then it finally stops.

EXT. SPACE - BEAST DRONE SHIPS

are swooping down on the huge Ice ship, AURORA, firing. The Aurora's rear guns adjust and fire back, imploding one BD ship. It then zooms straight DOWN, the BD ships pursuing.

CRYOS
(20) Graveheart, we are sustaining major damage.

INT. AURORA

The ship has been heavily damaged. Sparks are shooting out everywhere. Graveheart pilots. Cryos is in the co-pilot seat. Jade is manning the weapons. She's grim, firing.

GRAVEHEART
(21) I'm taking evasive maneuvers...
JADE
(22) Targeting their containment fields now...

EXT. AURORA

The Aurora arcs around, moving in behind some BD ships. The Aurora opens fire, imploding the BDs.

GRAVEHEART
(23) Well done, Jade.

JADE
(24) You were expecting anything less?

INT. AURORA

Graveheart gives her a slight smile then turns back to the controls.

GRAVEHEART
(25) All right, people. Let’s go home.

EXT. AURORA - BEHIND THE COCKPIT

And the ship streaks off into space.

ANGLE ON THE SURFACE OF REMORA - EXT. / INT. BLADE WING

PUSH IN on the ship. Zera and Pyrus glance at each other.

ZERA
(26) Are we alive?

PYRUS
(27) Yeah, just barely.

Pyrus checks out the instruments.

pyruS (cont’d)
(28) Ah man, lift Thrusters aren’t responding. I’d better check them out.

He reaches for one of two respirators hanging in their place.

_ZERA
(29) No, we should wait inside. My father will rescue us.

PYRUS
(30) First he’s got to find us.

_ZERA
Where are we?

PYRUS
DON’T YOU KNOW YOUR ASTRONOMY? THIS HAS TO BE REMORA. YOU KNOW, THE DEAD WORLD?

WHICH IS WHAT WE'RE GONNA BE IF WE DON'T FIND A WAY OUT OF THIS.

Pyrus presses the release hatch button. He is wearing his mask.

He exits. Zera nervously glances at the second respirator.

EXT. BLADE WING - DAY

Pyrus exits the ship and suddenly feels very cold.

PYRUS
(31) I-it's f-f-freezing here.

ZERA
(32)Well I rather like it.

He looks at himself and sees his fire is dampening somewhat.

PYRUS
(33) You would. Inferno! There's not enough oxygen to keep my flame lit.

PULLS off an exterior plate, revealing sparking wires.

PYRUS
(34) I-I c-can't stay out here f-f-for long.

ZERA (OS)
(35) Then you'd best move aside, matchstick.

Zera enters next to him and spits out an icy coat of NANINITE MIST, dousing the sparks and flames.

PYRUS
(36) Yuck! I still think that's disgusting.

ZERA
(37) Ice extinguishes fire, remember?

Pyrus lifts a hand to the icy frost, melting it.

PYRUS
(38) Yeah but fire still melts ice.

Zera isn't happy to be topped.

ZERA
(39) Touch'.

INT. BLOKK'S LAIR - ON A MONITOR SCREEN

PULL OUT on scene to see that we're watching it on a monitor in Blokk's lair. PUSH TO BLOKK who stares at the screen, a smile forming on what passes for his lips.

BLOKK
(40) Excellent.
Blokk activates a control panel. He is very pleased.

EXT. REMORA - BY OPEN BLADE WING PLATE - DAY

A freezing Pyrus holds the frayed wires. PULL OUT as Zera SCANS them with a hand computer. She punches in some keys.

PYRUS
(41) W-we'll have to replace th-these wires.

ZERA
(42) No problem. The computer is registering metal deposits not far from here. You go back inside. I'll go look for them.

Then, a <CHNK CHNK> sound behind them. They turn:

Fully-armed and ready, BEAST DRONES are moving in.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. REMORA - ON THE BLADE WING - DAY

The BDs enter, FIRING. Pyrus and Zera race back to the Wing.

PYRUS
(43) Quick. G-g-get inside.

Zera dives inside, Pyrus scrambles in after her. Pyrus's internal flame seems to rekindle. On the entry-ramp:

ZERA
(44) You don't have to treat me like a child. I know what to do.

PYRUS

(45) You also said you knew how to fly.

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EXT. BLADE WING - DAY

BDs move front and back of the Blade Wing, firing. Suddenly, the Blade Wing's weapons fire back at them, IMPLODING them. More BDs move in, firing.

ZERA (OS)
(49) There's too many. What do we do?

INT. BLADE WING

The ship rocks under the barrage. Pyrus is at the weapons controls, firing at Drones. A frantic Zera is at the window.

PYRUS
(50) Sit down, shut up, and strap yourself in!.

He guns the engines. Zera is horrified as she braces herself, and mag-locks herself in.

PYRUS (cont'd)
(51) Woohoo! This is going to be a bumpy ride.

EXT. BLADE WING - DAY

The Blade Wing JUMPS forward, SMASHING into Drones who IMPLODE on impact. It SLIDES ahead, imploding more Drones until the Blade Wing reaches the chasm edge and lurches OVER, careening down the incline.

INT. BLADE WING

A wild ride! Zera is frantic as Pyrus works the controls.

ZERA
(52) You big, dumb lava-encrusted--! If we live through this, you're charcoal.

EXT. BLADE WING - DAY

The forward thrusters turn on, slowing their descent, but they're still crashing down the mountain.

INT. BLADE WING

The Blade Wing is shaking them like crazy...

EXT. BLADE WING - DAY

Finally, it slows down as it reaches the sloping bottom. It tears across the ground until it slides to a stop.

INT. BLADE WING

Zera and Pyrus struggle up, looking around.

ZERA
(53) Next time someone volunteers you to take me home...*turn them down!*

Pyrus tosses Zera a weapon.

PYRUS
(54) Here, I hope you know how to use this.

ZERA
(55) Worry about yourself, lava-head.

EXT. SPACE - INT. AURORA - BEHIND THE COCKPIT

Jade is on her back under the console. There's a spark, then she pulls free, and tosses a wrench-device to Graveheart.

JADE
(56) The comm is back on line.

Cryos hits some keys and an Ice Guard flickers into view.

ICE GUARD
(57) Sire, how goes the battle?

CRYOS
(58) We won...this time. And please, just call me Cryos. I'm no longer King. Is my daughter there?

ICE GUARD
(59) The Lady Zera? Isn't she with <u>you</u>?

CRYOS
(60) No. She and Prince Pyrus departed hours ago. They should have arrived by now.

ICE GUARD
(61) No ships have landed since you left.

Cryos is stunned. Graveheart looks at him as he and Jade take the pilot and co-pilot's seat.

GRAVEHEART

(62) Charting a course back...

Cryos is reining in his emotions but it’s not easy.

CRYOS
(63) She has to be safe...she has to be.

Jade gives Graveheart a look, then goes back to work.

EXT. REMORA - THE BLADE WING - AFTERNOON

Both are once again wearing their respirators. Zera wears a shoulder bag. Pyrus embraces his staff as he glances at it. They look around: the planet’s an endless wasteland in all directions. Pyrus is freezing and his fire is diminishing again.

ZERA
(64) I could have found the metal ores to replace the wires without you. You should have stayed inside.

PYRUS
(65) Oh Yeah? You needed my protection.

ZERA
I don’t need any help from you.

Frightened, but refusing to give in, they head into the utter desolation of this eerie landscape. TIME PASSES... they trudge on. More time passes... Pyrus looks much worse now.

MONUMENT VALLEY - ALIEN STYLE - DUSK

An eerie sunset over a dead world. Tired, they nervously tromp on, their fears growing as the sky darkens. Pyrus’s internal heat seems almost gone now. He looks very bad.

ZERA
(66) Pyrus...?

PYRUS
(weak)
(67) I-I’m f-f-fine. Keep moving.

They are walking up a slight incline and suddenly feel the GROUND TREMBLE beneath them. We hear the GRINDING OF MACHINERY. As they reach the apex of the ridge, the source of the noise is revealed..

They see a mechanical elevator device rising up out of the ground, then receding. Suddenly ARMED BEAST DRONES rise up from the ground. The kids stare, petrified.

Zera's eyes widen. Pyrus gestures. They DIVE behind a rock.

EXT. REMORA - MONUMENT VALLEY

Pyrus and Zera hide behind a formation, watching OS.

The Drones are standing atop a LARGE CIRCULAR STEEL ELEVATOR PLATFORM that rises to the surface allowing them to step off.

ZERA (WHISPER)
(68) Where did they come from?

The Drones march OS as the platform LOWERS. Weak, Pyrus runs to it and jumps on. The platform has lowered ten feet. Zera's nervous, but she makes the huge leap... and lands. It descends, lower, lower, until it's out of sight.

CUT TO:

EXT./INT. AURORA

The ship streaks through star-studded space. Inside, Graveheart is working on a computer. Cryos turns to him.

CRYOS
(69) Anything?

A WINDING PATH is highlighted on a PLANETARY SYSTEM MAP on the computer.

GRAVEHEART
(70) I've picked up the Blade Wing's fuel residue trail. (beat) They were heading toward sector B-seven.

Cryos is at the controls. He enters the data.

JADE (OS)
(71) More bad news...

GRAVEHEART
(72) Is that possible?

Jade enters. The others turn to her.

JADE
(73) The Vizier has somehow discovered his Prince is missing.

CLOSE ON JADE - looking grim.

JADE (cont'd)

(74) Unless Pyrus is found soon, Fire will pull out of the Alliance.

Cryos and Graveheart react.

CUT TO:

INT. REMORA - THE ELEVATOR SHAFT

The platform lowers into an underground facility. Pyrus notices his flame is red hot again. He thinks, then removes his respirator, breathing in sharply. He looks better now.

PYRUS
(75) There's oxygen here...and heat.

A beat and Zera removes her respirator. Pyrus leans over and stuffs his respirator into Zera's bag. Zera gives him a smirk. They stare in awe at the wondrous sight.

ZERA
This place is huge!

At last the platform GRINDS to a halt. They step off, staring up at the incredible sights surrounding them.

ZERA (cont'd)
Come on. Let's take a look around.

The facility is filled with huge machines that dwarf the Sears Tower. Then, they hear FOOTSTEPS and duck behind a generator.

ZERA (cont'd)
It's coming from over there!

PYRUS
No, they're over here!

Zera notices the wiring on the generator. Machine noises are heard throughout scene.

PUSH IN. Pyrus presses close to the generator as Zera cuts free a section of wiring and puts into into her shoulder bag.

Suddenly Beast Drones march past and exit OS. Pyrus marvels at their surroundings.

PYRUS
(76) By the Inferno! This what we've been searching for all these months.

Zera looks concerned as they move through the place.

PYRUS (cont'd)
(77) It's the lair of the Beast Drones, their headquarters. We've got to warn the Alliance.

ZERA
(78) And exactly how are we supposed to do that? We're marooned here, remember?

They move on. Zera finds more wiring and cuts it loose. As they walk, she pries loose various pieces of machinery and puts into her bag.

CABLE ROOM

Filled with massive planet-moving machinery. Giant cables crisscross high above them. They get to an area with TWO corridors. Pyrus points to the left one. Zera right.

PYRUS
(79) This way.

ZERA
(80) What do you know? I say we go <u>this</u> way.

He angrily turns to her.

PYRUS
(81) Okay, that's it. Why must you always argue with me? Look! I'm going <u>this</u> way. You're welcome to follow me or not.

ZERA
(82) Don't hold your breath.

They head down the two corridors, disappearing into the distance. SHIFT BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN THE TWO CORRIDORS.

ZERA'S CORRIDOR

Nervous, regretting her decision, she moves on.

PYRUS'S CORRIDOR

He, too, is nervous. He holds his weapon, regretting his decision. Moving along very cautiously alerted to all that surrounds him.

INT. BLOKK'S LAIR - ON A MONITOR SCREEN

Two monitors: 1: Zera continues to cut wire free from surrounding machinery. 2: Pyrus carefully treads down his

corridor. Pull back: BLOKK is watching. He turns to the comm...

BLOKK
(83) Our guests have arrived. You know what to do.

On the screens, we see Beast Drones in both corridors moving in behind their unknowing victims.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. GENERATOR ROOM

Huge generators pulse with power. ZERA ENTERS, looks around then hears FOOTSTEPS. She squeezes into the space between generators as Drones move past her. As she does, she takes a small device from her bag and sticks it to a generator wall.

INT. MACHINE ROOM

Pyrus is alone when a Drone steps in front of him. He turns and sees the other Drones. They move in. A hand knocks on a pipe behind the Drone, the drone whips around aiming his gun.

PYRUS
Oh, oh.

A shot hurtles towards the drone imploding it.

ZERA (OS)
Pyrus!

When the smoke clears we see that it was Zera who pulled the trigger. She gestures and they run off OS.

A NEW CORRIDOR

THEY'RE RUNNING, then stop, breathing hard.

ZERA

(84) What say we stick together from here on?

PYRUS
(85) No argument. And thanks. For back there.

Zera smiles, but her smile fades to horror. Pyrus is confused as he turns. PULL BACK: BDs swarm in, BUT THEY DO NOT FIRE.

ZERA (OS)
Oh, oh. Any ideas?

PYRUS (OS)
I'm open for suggestions.

PYRUS (cont'd)
That way!

Zera looks up: the machine is ridged and filled with doodads they can CLIMB on. They begin climbing fast as they can.

PYRUS
Whatever you do, don't slow down!!

ZERA
We'd go faster if I was in the lead!

Zera spits naninites down the ladder, freezing it's supports. The now fragile supports shear under the weight of the Drones, and both ladder and Drones collapses back to the floor. The remaining Drones continue their pursuit.

ANGLE ON TOP OF THE MACHINE

Pyrus scrambles to the top. Zera is still climbing. A Drone is about to grab her when a flaming pole swoops and hits the Drone. The Drone implodes. She looks up and grins at Pyrus (who destroyed it) as she scrambles up.

ZERA
(86) Maybe you're not so useless after all.

PYRUS
(87) Is this your way of apologizing to me?

ZERA
(88) In your dreams.

They look down, their expressions turning to horror.

THEIR POV_

As many Drones as possible climb up the machine on all sides.

BACK TO SCENE

They look up. The massive cables are crisscrossing above. Below, the Drones are closing in. They leap up to the cables.

ANGLE ON CABLES

They start across. It's a long, frightening tightrope walk. When they look down it's VERTIGO all over. Pyrus is using his pole for balance. Zera uses all four arms for Balance.

They reach a PIPE that goes down to the ground. Pyrus leaps onto it and SLIDES DOWN. Zera pauses and puts another small device on the pipe, then leaps and follows.

ANGLE ON GROUND

They land and turn. REFRAME: Blokk stands before them.

BLOKK
(89) Welcome to our humble encampment.

CUT TO:

EXT./INT. AURORA

Jade now pilots the ship. PAN to a grim Cryos and Graveheart.

At the controls, Jade turns to the others. Remora is on the view screen in the far distance. The others join her.

JADE
(90) The fuel trail leads to Remora.

GRAVEHEART
(91) There's nothing there. It's a dead world.

CRYOS
(92) Let us hope it is not truly dead.

INT. REMORA - ANGLE ON GROUND

Blokk and BDs move in on Pyrus and Zera.

BLOKK
(To the Beast Drones)

(94) You are going to help me destroy your precious Alliance once and for all.

BLOKK (cont'd)
(93) Take them to a cell.

Zera moves back and sticks another device into the wall. She PRESSES a button on it...

ZERA
(95) I don't think so.

She and Pyrus DIVE to the sides.

THE DEVICE EXPLODES with smoke spraying over Blokk and the drones. Zera and Pyrus run. _

PYRUS
(96) What was that?

ZERA
(97) A smoke bomb. I used to make them when I was a child.

PYRUS
(98) You do have your uses.

Blokk angrily steps out from the smoke, waving it away.

BLOKK
(99) Find them and bring them to me. NOW!

INT. GENERATOR ROOM
Zera and Pyrus see a Beast Drone on the hunt. They dive between the generators and move through the narrow space. Expand for tension.

PYRUS
(100) Hey Zera! Got any more tricks in that bag?

Smiling, Zera takes out a remote control. She presses it...

ZERA
(101) Well, as a matter of fact...

INT. CORRIDOR - BY BEAST DRONE

Another smoke bomb explodes beside the Drones.

ZERA
I planted some smoke bombs earlier. I thought they might come in handy.

PYRUS
Boy, did they ever!

Zera and Pyrus dash out of hiding and fire back into the smoke. We HEAR the sound of imploding drones.

INT. MACHINE ROOM

Zera and Pyrus run, zigzagging through the complex.

Blokk stalks forward, smoke bomb after smoke bomb EXPLODING in his path. He staggers forward, waving away the smoke. He's angry as hell and twice as mean.

BLOKK
(102) Enough! I no longer want them captured. DESTROY THEM!

INT. CORRIDOR

Drones march down the corridor. Then, Zera steps out and starts firing. Pyrus approaches a drone and smacks it's containment unit with his pole. The Drones whirl as they implode. Pyrus and Zera grin at each other, then race off.

INT. ELEVATOR PLATFORM

Pyrus and Zera race onto the platform.

PYRUS
That's our way out of here!

He hits a control button and the platform rises. A beat later BD beams slash past them. ZIP PAN DOWN. Blokk and Beast Drones are entering below, firing up at the receding elevator.

The BD beams sizzle harmlessly past them. Zera and Pyrus are both frightened and yet thrilled with their success as they put back on their respirators.

ZERA
Hang on!

PYRUS
Don't worry about me. Just keep firing!

At the top of the shaft, Pyrus slashes at the elevator cables. The platform PLUMMETS back down the shaft...

...SMASHING into Beast Drones, IMPLODING them.

EXT. REMORA - NIGHT

Two small figures race through the night.

ZERA
Our ship! It’s just around that bend.

EXT. BLADE WING AREA - NIGHT

They’re by the Blade Wing. Zera is fitting wires into position as Pyrus is before her, looking OS frantically. We can HEAR the OS FOOTSTEPS of approaching Beast Drones.

PYRUS
(103) Think you can hurry? They’ll be here any second now.

ZERA
(104) Come on...

Beast Drones on gliders are fast approaching.

ZERA (cont’d)
Come on...Done! Lets go!

They race around the Blade Wing and dive inside.

PYRUS
(105) 'Bout time.

The Beast Drones move in. Closer, closer... then, the Blade Wing rises and speeds off OS amidst much Beast Drone fire.

EXT. REMORA

The BLADE WING zooms spaceward. PUSH BACK...Beast Drone ships are in pursuit, firing.

INT. BLADE WING - CONTINUOUS

Zera checks the monitors; BD ships are closing in, firing.

ZERA
(106) Don’t they ever quit?

PYRUS
(107) Not so far.

They give each other a very frightened look.

EXT. REMORA - CONTINUOUS
The Blade Wing is under attack. Suddenly, beams sizzle past it and strike the Beast drone ships, imploding them.

WIDE - The Aurora SWOOPS in over the tiny Blade Wing.

INT. BLADE WING

Zera and Pyrus look at the monitor and then each other.

ZERA
(108) I knew my father would find us.
(to Pyrus - grimly)
We’re still not friends, are we?

PYRUS
(109) Fire and Ice? No way. Not gonna happen.

ZERA
(110) Good. I was just making sure.

They both turn from each other even as they smile.

EXT. SPACE - THE AURORA
The shuttlebay door opens, and the Blade Wing enters.

INT. AURORA BRIDGE

Zera runs to her father. They hug. But then he turns grim. She starts to say something, but he stops her.

CRYOS
(111) Zera, we’re living in very dangerous times, and I worry so much about you...

Zera knows what’s coming and is about to protest.

CRYOS (cont’d)
(112) That is why I have spoken with Jade. Beginning tomorrow, she will help train you to be a warrior.

Zera is overwhelmed. She grabs her father and hugs him.

Jade stares at her, grim as ever.

JADE
(113) Just remember, child...you asked for this.

Zera smiles, then turns back to her father and buries her head in his arms. All is well.

Pyrus turns to the group.

PYRUS
(114) Good, because we’re going to need all the warriors we can get.

(off their curious looks)
You guys, wait till we tell you what we found on Remora...

We PULL BACK as they all turn to Pyrus, listening. We can see their expressions turn grim and resolute, as we:

FADE OUT.

END_